



Health Services

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January 12, 2010

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D.
Interim Director

SUBJECT: **HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM FY 2008-2009 FIRST QUARTER
REPORT: JULY 1, 2009 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2009**

In 2001, the Board directed the Department of Health Services (DHS) to prepare quarterly reports on the Health Care Workforce Development Program (HCWDP). Included in this report is an update on both educational activities and efforts to secure outside funding.

NEW PARTNERSHIP AND EXTERNAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

HCWDP has been actively seeking outside funding, in particular new federal funds becoming available under the federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). The goal is to provide funding that will offset the cost of existing contracts with the Worker Education & Resource Center (WERC) and other educational providers.

New opportunities: WERC functioned in this period as a workforce intermediary, bringing together a public-private partnership to apply for ARRA and Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds that are targeting job retention and creation in economic sectors, such as Health Care, where there is projected growth, despite the current recession. WERC brought together a group of partners including Kaiser Permanente Health Plan, Country Villa Health Service, the Los Angeles Community College District, the Los Angeles City Workforce Investment Board, and the Service Employees International Union, to apply for five million dollars for three years under the USDOL – ARRA Strong Economic Sectors proposal (see attached Partnership Commitment letter).

If this proposal is funded, the costs of the HCWDP will be integrated into a larger regional program that will provide services to DHS employees, employees from other health-related County departments, private sector employees, and new entrants to the workforce. By sharing the costs, offset by the grant, DHS will expend less, and receive expanded opportunities for its employees.

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The overall goal is to create an educational pathway for a culturally diverse workforce that is willing to serve in the County's health care safety net system. Supporters of the program include the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County and Mental Health of America (see attached letters of support). The award notice is anticipated by February 2010.

WERC is also planning to submit a proposal with the same public-private regional partnership to the Los Angeles City Workforce Investment Board (WIB). The LA City WIB is planning to combine funding with the LA County WIB for a solicitation for a health care sector workforce development program. The anticipated amount is two million dollars for 18 months, beginning February 2010.

In a separate effort, WERC participated with a national SEIU labor-management partnership, seeking funding from the USDOL – ARRA funds for Green training initiatives. WERC will manage \$700,000 over two years if funded, for a Los Angeles regional program that will provide funding for DHS environmental services employees to receive training on ways to clean and maintain County facilities using "green" technologies that should result in less waste. The proposal was submitted in September, and the award notice is anticipated by January 2010.

New funding awards in this quarter: WERC secured funding awards through the Los Angeles Workforce Funding Collaborative for a combined amount of \$175,000 for one year, including funds from the S. Mark Taper Foundation, and the Kaiser Community Partners Foundation. WERC also secured \$52,500 from United Way of Los Angeles County. These grants will offset some of the costs in the WERC contract with DHS.

WERC collaborated with the County's College of Nursing and Allied Health for a Hispanic-Serving Institution grant proposal, which was not successful.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

HCWDP is providing services to approximately 300 DHS employees who are:

- 1) currently enrolled in multi-class training programs which lead to nursing or other allied health licensure, or certification of qualification for positions for which DHS uses registry staff;
- 2) participating in skill enhancement classes that meet a critical need;
- 3) Receiving counseling and assessment services.

Activity in first quarter-multi-class training programs

Nursing Program:

- 64 students are continuing their Registered Nurse (RN) educations sponsored by HCWDP at the College of Nursing and Allied Health.
- 2 HCWDP graduates were promoted to RN.
- 19 HCWDP graduates passed their Board exams for RN.
- 5 HCWDP graduates passed the Board exam for Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)
- 12 HCWDP graduates completed the RN program.

Psychiatric Technician Program

- 4 HCWDP graduates passed their State Board exams, one was promoted at Department of Mental Health and three are awaiting promotion.
- 10 graduates continue to prepare for the Board exam.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging

- 7 DHS employees are continuing in the Magnetic Resonance Imaging training.

Health Care Careers College Pre-Requisite Courses

- 14 DHS employees enrolled in a Physiology class.
- 4 DHS employees enrolled in a Psychology 41 class

Basic Academic Skills Courses

- 86 DHS employees were enrolled in a basic skills class in preparation for a career professional program.

Skills Enhancement

- Preparing an advanced medical record coding skills upgrade program for new coders to be mentored on the job.
- Assisting with a pilot quality improvement program for environmental services workers at LAC+USC Medical Center.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Diane Factor at (213) 639-2220.

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Attachment

c: Chief Executive Office
Acting County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Local 721, SEIU
HCWDP, Director